

1 What is claimed is:

2 1. A system for monitoring a food service site, said system  
3 comprising:

4 a) a local processor assembly comprising memory, a  
5 display and input facilities,

6 b) said local processor assembly including a monitoring  
7 program structured to determine operational  
8 performance of the site,

9 c) said monitoring program comprising a plurality of  
10 tasks relating to different operational categories, at  
11 least some of said plurality of tasks requiring a user  
12 response,

13 d) predetermined standards included within said  
14 monitoring program and being determinative of  
15 acceptable performance of said operational categories,

16 e) result records comprised of data derived from a  
17 collection of said user responses and indicative of  
18 compliance of said operational categories with said  
19 predetermined standards, and

20 f) a control facility including sufficient memory and  
21 processing capabilities for storing and processing  
22 said result records to define evidence of a pattern of  
23 compliance with said predetermined standards.

24 2. A system as in claim 1 wherein said predetermined standards  
25 comprise government regulatory requirements.

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1 3. A system as recited in claim 2 wherein said predetermined  
2 standards further comprise owner regulatory requirements.

3 4. A system as recited in claim 2 wherein said predetermined  
4 standards further comprise owner regulatory requirements  
5 which exceed said government regulatory standards.

6 5. A system as recited in claim 1 further comprising a  
7 plurality of corrective actions communicated to the user on  
8 said display, each of said corrective actions being  
9 responsive to individual ones of said user responses which  
10 indicate the existence of conditions non-compliant with  
11 associated ones of said predetermined standards.

12 6. A system as recited in claim 5 wherein said corrective  
13 actions require supplemental user responses directed toward  
14 compliance of actual conditions of said operational  
15 categories with associated ones of said predetermined  
16 standards.

17 7. A system as recited in claim 1 wherein each of said tasks  
18 comprises at least one test item requiring said user  
19 response, each of said test items communicated to the user  
20 ~~on said display.~~

21 8. A system as recited in claim 7 wherein each said test items  
22 are communicated to the user on said display concurrently  
23 with at least one related user response.

24 9. A system as recited in claim 8 wherein said input  
25 facilities are structured to provide user selection of at

- 1 least said one related user response.
- 2 10. A system as recited in claim 9 wherein said input
- 3 facilities comprise a probe assembly interfaced with said
- 4 local processor assembly and structured to determine said
- 5 one related user response.
- 6 11. A system as recited in claim 10 wherein said probe assembly
- 7 comprises a temperature sensing probe structured to
- 8 determine an existing temperature, said one related user
- 9 response communicated on said display as said existing
- 10 temperature.
- 11 12. A system as recited in claim 7 wherein each of said test
- 12 items are communicated to the user on said display
- 13 concurrently with a plurality of related user responses.
- 14 13. A system as recited in claim 12 wherein said input
- 15 facilities are further structured to provide user selection
- 16 of an appropriate one of said plurality of user responses
- 17 indicative of actual operating conditions.
- 18 14. A system as recited in claim 13 wherein said input
- 19 facilities comprise a display activated keypad structured
- 20 to allow manual user selection of an appropriate one of
- 21 said user responses.
- 22 15. A system as recited in claim 1 wherein said monitoring
- 23 program includes a scheduling application including
- 24 preferred performance of said plurality of inquisitory
- 25 tasks at a specified time.

1 16. A system as recited in claim 15 wherein said scheduling  
2 application indicates preferred performance of said  
3 plurality of inquisitory tasks in a predetermined sequence.

4 17. A system as recited in claim 16 wherein said monitoring  
5 program further comprises an alert application for  
6 communicating untimely input of a corresponding user  
7 response to a scheduled inquisitory task.

8 18. A system as recited in claim 15 wherein said monitoring  
9 program further comprises an alert application for  
10 communicating untimely response to a scheduled task.

11 19. A system as recited in claim 1 wherein said input  
12 facilities comprise a temperature acquisition module  
13 interfaced with said local processor assembly and  
14 structured to determine an appropriate user response.

15 20. A system as recited in claim 10 wherein said temperature  
16 acquisition module comprises a probe assembly including a  
17 temperature sensing probe structured to determine an  
18 existing temperature and communicate the determined  
19 existing temperature to said display for communication to  
20 the user as a user response.

21 21. A system as recited in claim 20 wherein said input  
22 facilities comprise a display activated keypad structured  
23 to allow user selection of an appropriate one of a  
24 plurality of displayed user responses.

25 22. A system as recited in claim 1 wherein said input

1 facilities comprise a display activated keypad structured  
2 to allow user selection of an appropriate one of said user  
3 responses displayed concurrently with a related inquisitory  
4 task.

5 23. A system as recited in claim 1 wherein said local processor  
6 assembly comprises a portable, handheld computer.

7 24. A system for monitoring at least one of a plurality of food  
8 service sites, said system comprising:

- 9 a) a portable processor operable at the site and  
10 comprising memory, a display and input facilities,  
11 b) said portable processor assembly including a  
12 monitoring program determinative of compliant  
13 operational performance of the site,  
14 c) said monitoring program comprising a task application  
15 relating to different operational categories,  
16 d) said task application including a plurality of test  
17 items each requiring a user response indicative of  
18 actual conditions associated with said plurality of  
19 operational categories,  
20 e) a plurality of predetermined standards defining  
21 acceptable performance parameters for said operational  
22 categories,  
23 f) a corrective application comprising a plurality of  
24 corrective actions, each being responsive to a user  
25 response which is non-compliant with associated ones

of said plurality of predetermined standards,

- g) result records comprised of data derived from a collection of said user responses and indicative of compliance with said predetermined standards, and
- h) a control facility including a central processor having sufficient capability to process said result records in a manner evidencing a pattern of compliance with said predetermined standards.

25. A system as recited in claim 24 wherein said input facilities comprise a temperature acquisition module interfaced with said portable processor and structured to communicate data defining user response and representative of actual conditions of said portable processor.

26. A system as recited in claim 25 wherein said temperature acquisition module comprises a probe assembly including a temperature sensing probe operative by the user to determine existing temperature data, said temperature data automatically communicated to the user on said display and defining a corresponding user response.

27. A system as recited in claim 26 wherein said plurality of input facilities further comprise a display activated keypad structured to allow user selection of an appropriate one of a plurality of user responses evident on said display.

28. A system as recited in claim 24 wherein each of said test

1 items are communicated to the user on said display  
2 substantially concurrently with at least one user response  
3 appropriate to indicate an actual condition of a  
4 corresponding one of said operational categories.

5 29. A system as recited in claim 28 wherein at least some of  
6 said test items are concurrently displayed with a plurality  
7 of user responses individually appropriate to indicate  
8 actual conditions of a corresponding one of said  
9 operational categories.

10 30. A system as recited in claim 24 wherein said plurality of  
11 predetermined standards comprise government derived  
12 standards.

13 31. A system as recited in claim 30 wherein said plurality of  
14 predetermined standards comprise owner derived standards.

15 32. A system as recited in claim 31 wherein said owner derived  
16 standards exceed said government derived standards.

17 33. A system as recited in claim 24 wherein said plurality of  
18 corrective actions are communicated to the user on said  
19 display and require a user performed action.

20 34. A system as recited in claim 33 wherein said corrective  
21 application further comprises requirements for a  
22 supplementary user response indicative of compliance of  
23 actual conditions with related ones of said plurality of  
24 predetermined standards.

25 35. A system as recited in claim 24 wherein said monitoring

1 program further comprises an alert application for  
2 communicating untimely user responses to said plurality of  
3 text items.

4 36. A process for monitoring operation of at least one of a  
5 plurality of food service sites, said process comprising:

- 6 a) establishing a plurality of categories associated with  
7 the functioning of the site,  
8 b) determining a plurality of user interactive tasks  
9 relating to the operational categories and being  
10 indicative of a degree of performance thereof,  
11 c) acknowledging a plurality of standards which define  
12 acceptable performance parameters for the operational  
13 categories,  
14 d) requiring user responses to the tasks which are  
15 indicative of actual conditions associated with the  
16 plurality of operational categories,  
17 e) collecting resulting records comprised of data derived  
18 from the user responses and being indicative of  
19 compliance with the predetermined standards, and  
20 f) processing the result records to establish evidence of  
21 a pattern of compliance with said plurality of  
22 standards.

23 37. A process as recited in claim 36 comprising communicating  
24 a plurality of corrective actions to the user in response  
25 to entry of user responses indicative of existing



1 conditions being non-compliant with the plurality of  
2 standards.

3 38. A process as recited in claim 37 comprising requesting  
4 performance of the corrective actions by the user in an  
5 attempt to bring existing conditions of the operational  
6 categories into compliance with the plurality of standards.  
7 39. A process as recited in claim 38 requiring supplementary  
8 user response subsequent to performance of the corrective  
9 actions which are indicative of compliance of the existing  
10 conditions with the plurality of standards.

11 40. A process as recited in claim 36 comprising defining the  
12 plurality of user interactive tasks as a plurality of test  
13 items directing user performance to determine existing  
14 conditions associated with the plurality of operational  
15 categories.

16 41. A process as recited in claim 40 comprising providing the  
17 user with a plurality of user responses indicative of a  
18 plurality of possible existing conditions of the plurality  
19 of operational categories.

20 42. A process as recited in claim 41 comprising manually  
21 selecting at least one of the provided plurality of user  
22 responses.

23 43. A process as recited in claim 42 comprising automatically  
24 selecting at least one of the provided plurality of user  
25 responses.

44. A process as recited in claim 41 comprising defining requested user responses as temperature automatically determined by temperature sensing.

45. A process as recited in claim 44 comprising automatically recording the user responses defined by the sensed temperatures.

46. A process as recited in claim 40 comprising scheduling periodic performance of the plurality of test items and required user responses.

47. A process as recited in claim 46 comprising determining untimely entry of user responses to scheduled test items being indicative of untimely user performance of scheduled test items.

48. A process as recited in claim 36 comprising processing the result records to establish documentary evidence of a pattern of compliance with said plurality of standards.